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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: GRANGER et al.

Group Art Unit: 2662

Application No.: ^{09/642453}
09/417,459

Examiner: Mr. Hanh N. Nguyen

Filed: August 18, 2000

Attorney Docket No.: 10053-137-999

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING INTERNET BASED PHONE
CONFERENCES USING MULTIPLE CODECS

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8(a))

DATE OF DEPOSIT: January 19, 2005

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated above with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


Wilfred Lam

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Response to Office Action is responsive to the Office Action from the Examiner mailed July 19, 2004, in which the Examiner set the period for reply to expire on the mailing date of the OFFICE ACTION.

Three Month Extension - Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), the Applicants hereby petition for a three month extension of time to respond to the Office Action. This extension will extend the response due date to January 19, 2005.

Match and Return

*TC
4-22-05

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AMENDMENT

In response to the Office Action of July 19, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-9, 12, 19 and 22 without prejudice. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled).
2. (Canceled).
3. (Canceled).
4. (Canceled).
5. (Canceled).
6. (Canceled).
7. (Canceled).
8. (Canceled).
9. (Canceled).

10. (Canceled).

11. (Canceled).

12. (Canceled).

13. (Original) A computer product for use in conjunction with a computer system, the computer program product comprising a computer readable storage medium and a computer program mechanism embedded therein, the computer program mechanism comprising:

a receiving module for receiving a data structure that includes digitized speech from a transmitting forum participant in a forum;

an analyzer module for analyzing said data structure to determine whether said digitized speech in said data structure is redundantly represented in a plurality of forms;

a selection module for selecting one or more forms from said plurality of forms in said data structure when said digitized speech is redundantly represented in said data structure in said plurality of forms based on an aspect of said forum; and

a forwarding module for forwarding a portion of said data structure to a receiving forum participant, thereby communicating said digitized speech from said transmitting forum participant in said forum; wherein

said portion of said data structure that is forwarded to said receiving forum participant by said forwarding module includes data in said data structure that corresponds to each of said one or more forms selected by said selection module when said digitized speech is redundantly represented in said data structure in said plurality of forms.

14. (Original) The computer product of claim 13, wherein each form in said plurality of forms is characterized by an operation of a different codec on a voice signal that corresponds to said digitized speech from said transmitting forum participant.

15. (Original) The computer product of claim 13, wherein each form in said plurality of forms is characterized by a different amount of a characteristic, said characteristic selected from the group consisting of a coding method, a transmitted bandwidth, a bit rate, a form of bit rate, a level of speech quality, an amount of error correction, a band signaling tone, a complexity, a frame size, an amount of delay, and a native sampling rate.

16. (Original) The computer product of claim 13, wherein said digitized speech is redundantly represented in said data structure in a first form and a second form,

said first form determined by an operation of a first codec on a voice signal corresponding to said digitized speech;

said second form determined by an operation of a second codec on said voice signal corresponding to said digitized speech;

said first codec characterized by a first predetermined transmitted bandwidth; and

said second codec characterized by a different second predetermined transmitted bandwidth.

17. (Original) The computer product of claim 13, wherein said digitized speech is redundantly represented in said data structure in a first and second form, said first form characterized by an operation of a first codec on a voice signal corresponding to said digitized speech and said second form characterized by an operation of a second codec on said voice signal corresponding to said digitized speech, wherein

said first codec operates with a first frame length and said second codec operates with a different second frame length,

said first form and said second form represented in said data structure in unequal durational amounts.

18. (Original) The computer product of claim 13, wherein said aspect is a status of said receiving forum participant, a number of nonpaying participants in said forum or a number of paying participants in said forum.

19. (Canceled).

20. (Canceled).

21. (Canceled).

22. (Canceled).

23. (Original) A computer readable memory used to direct a client/server system to function in a specified manner, comprising:

executable instructions stored in said memory, said executable instructions including:

instructions to receive a data structure that includes digitized speech from a transmitting forum participant in a forum;

instructions to analyze said data structure to determine whether said digitized speech in said data structure is redundantly represented in a plurality of forms;

instructions to select one or more forms from said plurality of forms in said data structure when said digitized speech is redundantly represented in said data structure in said plurality of forms based on an aspect of said forum; and

instructions to forward a portion of said data structure to a receiving forum participant, thereby communicating said digitized speech from said transmitting forum participant in said forum; wherein

said portion of said data structure that is forwarded to said receiving forum participant by said instructions to forward includes data in said data structure that corresponds to each of said

one or more forms selected by said instructions to select one or more forms when said digitized speech is redundantly represented in said data structure in said plurality of forms.

24. (Original) The computer readable memory of claim 23, wherein each form in said plurality of forms is characterized by an operation of a different codec on a voice signal that corresponds to said digitized speech from said transmitting forum participant.

25. (Original) The computer readable memory of claim 23, wherein each form in said plurality of forms is characterized by a different amount of a characteristic, said characteristic selected from the group consisting of a transmitted bandwidth, a bitrate, a form of bitrate, a level of speech quality, an amount of error correction, a band signaling tone, a complexity, a frame size, an amount of delay, and a native sampling rate.

26. (Original) The computer readable memory of claim 23, wherein said digitized speech is redundantly represented in said data structure in a first form and a second form,

said first form determined by an operation of a first codec on a voice signal corresponding to said digitized speech;

said second form determined by an operation of a second codec on said voice signal corresponding to said digitized speech;

said first codec characterized by a first predetermined transmitted bandwidth; and
said second codec characterized by a different second predetermined transmitted bandwidth.

27. (Original) The computer readable memory of claim 23, wherein said digitized speech is redundantly represented in said data structure in a first and second form, said first form characterized by an operation of a first codec on an voice signal corresponding to said digitized speech and said second form characterized by an operation of a second codec on said voice signal corresponding to said digitized speech, wherein;

said first codec operates with a first frame length and said second codec operates with a different second frame length; and

said first form and said second form represented in said data structure in unequal durational amounts.

28. (Original) The computer readable memory of claim 23, wherein said aspect of said forum is a status of said receiving forum participant, a number of nonpaying participants in said forum, or a number of paying participants in said forum.

29. (Original) A computer readable memory used to direct a client/server system to function in a specified manner, comprising:

executable instructions stored in said memory, said executable instructions including:

instructions to select one or more codecs based on an aspect of a forum;

instructions to convert to compressed digital data, by operation of each said selected codec, a voice signal associated with a participant in said forum;

instructions to package said digital data into a packet; and

instructions to transmit said packet, thereby communicating digitized speech from said participant in said forum;

wherein, when more than one codec is selected, said digital data includes a redundant representation of said voice signal associated with said participant in said forum.

30. (Original) The computer readable memory of claim 29 wherein

said instructions to select choose a first and a second codec; and

said instructions to convert to compressed digital data include:

instructions to convert a first amount of said voice signal associated with said participant in said forum to a first quanta of compressed digital data having a first degree of a characteristic;

instructions to convert a second amount of said voice signal associated with said participant in said forum to a second quanta of compressed digital data having a second degree of said characteristic; wherein

there exists an overlap between said first amount of said voice signal and said second amount of said voice signal.

31. (Original) The computer readable memory of claim 29, wherein said characteristic is a transmitted bandwidth, a bit rate, a form of bit rate; a level of speech quality, an amount of error correction, a band signaling tone, a complexity, a frame size, an amount of delay, or a native sampling rate.

32. (Original) The computer readable memory of claim 29, wherein said aspect of said forum is a status of a participant in said forum, a number of nonpaying participants in said forum, or a number of paying participants in said forum.

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REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed November 24, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 1-9, 12, 19 and 22 as being unpatentable over Gao et al. (US Patent 6,604,070) in view of RFC 2198 (1997). The Examiner also allowed claims 13-18 and 23-32.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-9, 12, 19 and 22. Nevertheless, claims 1-9, 12, 19 and 22 have been canceled in the above amendment such that an allowance of the instant application may be expedited. Applicants expressly reserve the rights to file a continuation application to continue prosecute any canceled claims, and respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider those claims in any future continuation applications.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that instant application is in condition of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 19, 2005

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